[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

NOES—17.

1.	Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.	9.	The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
2.	,, A. Govinda Menon.	10.	Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
3.	,, A Hoogewerf.	11.	,, K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
4.	,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	12.	,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.
5.	,, S. Krishna Aiyar.	13	,, M. N. Pillai.
6.	,, N. Kumaran.	14.	,, Joseph Panjikaran.
7.	,, T. Kumara Pillai.	15.	,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
8.	,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.	16.	,, C. Ramankunju.
		17.	,, C. Sankara Menon.

NEUTRALS—4.

1.	Mr. S. Adam Sait.	3.	Mr. L. R. Raja Raja Varma.
2.	,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.	4.	,, K. Dominic Tomman.

DEMAND VII GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 2,000 under General Administration. This is intended to cover the establishment and contingent charges of a Special officer proposed to be engaged mainly for the purpose of overhauling the Huzur records.

The condition of these records is not satisfactory. Prior to 1904, there was no regular system of file-keeping as understood at present. The records were kept in covers and bundles without any attempt to arrange them subjectwar. In 1904, the open file system was introduced, along with the new Secretariat scheme. The chief feature of the system was that references bearing on the same subject, however remote their connection might be, were put up together, so that the files had to be kept open, sometimes for years together, without being closed. Another serious drawback of the system was that important papers were not separated from the unimportant ones which could be destroyed after a certain period; nor was there any effective means of checking the arrears in the different Sections of the Secretariat. With a view to obviate these defects a simplified form of the disposal number system obtaining in British India was introduced in 1921; but the files disposed of under this system have not yet been transferred to the Records office, so that the files and papers which now encumber that office are those relating to the period anterior to 1921. Repeated efforts, more or less of a spasmodic nature, appear to have been made to overhaul these records. Several years ago, the late Mr. Sawyer, while in charge of the records, sorted and arranged some of the old covers and bundles, prepared an index for them and also had two volumes of the index printed. Later on, in the middle of 1918, a temporary staff of 8 clerks under a Special Superintendent was appointed for sorting and arranging the records. They completed the indexing of about 35,000 files relating to the period from 1904 to 1918 and the listing and indexing of about 3,000 covers of the earlier period. This staff was disbanded towards the close of 1920. Early in 1921, one of

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the Assistant Secretaries was put in exclusive charge of the records and he was given a temporary staff of four clerks for the examination and destruction of obsolete records. This staff continued for a year and a half and was disbanded in the middle of 1922. They examined 5,000 bundles (about 3,00,000 letters) and destroyed a portion of the obsolete records. No further work in that direction has been carried out since the disbandment of the special staff.

The most important items of work now remaining to be done in this connection are the following:—

1. the examination of—

(*a*) twenty-two almyras of unindexed bundles, about 3,226 in number, classed as 'important';

(*b*) twelve almyras of indexed covers consisting of 1,856 bundles;

(*c*) 1,50,000 files consisting partly of those indexed by the special staff during 1918 to 1920 and those received subsequently, but not indexed;

(*d*) bundles left untouched by the special staff employed from 1921 to 1922; and

(*e*) newspapers, magazines, maps and printed papers of a miscellaneous nature;

2. the destruction of such of them as are obsolete and useless;

3. the indexing and preservation of the remaining records; and

4. the selection of important papers for printing.

There are papers of great importance mixed up with a very large volume of useless old papers, and the former have to be carefully sorted and printed or otherwise preserved, while the latter have to be destroyed and the large space which they now occupy set free. These are important items of work which should be attended to promptly and under the close and direct supervision of an experienced officer, thoroughly conversant with the handling of old records. The officer Government have in view possesses this special experience and is stated to have done this kind of work successfully in Madras. He has been an officer of the Madras Secretariat for a long time and has just retired.

I have already said that the disposal number system was introduced in the Secretariat in 1921. Subsequent experience has shown that there is a good deal of difficulty in fitting this new system into the old open file system which was obtaining previous to it and consequently it has not been found possible yet to split the old files and to co-ordinate the new records with the old records and send them into the record room to be arranged there in their proper places. Consequently all the records subsequent to 1921 continued to remain in the various sections and there is congestion of room as also considerable impediment to the speedy disposal of work.

The Special Officer will see to the removal of all the papers in the various sections which have received final disposal to the record room, to the destruction of papers which require to be destroyed, and, to the

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[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

arrangement in their proper places of all the papers which require to be retained, thereby introducing system and arrangement in the old records up to the year 1923.

This Special Officer was engaged in Madras, for some time before his retirement, in introducing a simplified and improved system of office routine and procedure in the Secretariat and in working a newer system of record-keeping known as the Tottenham System.

While introducing such improvements in economies into the Huzur Cutcherry here, the Special Officer will also train some of our officers to continue these improved methods and to extend them to the other officers in Trivandrum and in the mofussil.

At present there is no regular stock-taking of the stationery and printed forms by an independent officer. It is considered desirable that this work should be done by the Special Officer as his experience of simplified office system would enable him to say to what extent economies could be introduced in stationery and printed forms, and therefore it is proposed that he should be asked to check the stock, all stationery and printed forms in charge of the Superintendent of Stationery.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether it would not be possible to send one of our officers to Madras and other places for training?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, it is possible.

These are the main items of work proposed to be entrusted to the Special Officer. These items have to be attended to without diversion of attention to other work by a Special Officer of considerable experience, as the delay that has already occurred is seriously hampering the despatch of business in the Secretariat and indirectly in the subordinate offices also.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was not this necessity felt at the time when this year's budget was introduced?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This was felt all along.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was this matter presented before the Finance Committee and did they discuss it?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, they discussed it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Why was this matter not brought forward when the last budget was discussed?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible to bring forward every conceivable scheme when the general State budget is discussed.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know who this officer is?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He is a retired officer of the Madras Secretariat. I do not think it is necessary to mention his name at this stage.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How long is it since he retired?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He retired very recently.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Have any changes been introduced now in the Madras Secretariat?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Changes have been introduced.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): When?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Since 1921.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a complicated system?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not a very complicated system.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the sorting of records does not require some Travancorean or somebody who knows Travancore conditions?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The presence of an officer of this Government will be of considerable help to the special officer.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But I think sorting is the only work now referred to him.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not the only work.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I believe sorting is the main work referred to.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sorting is not exactly the main item of work to be done.

It is proposed to engage him for the present for a period of six months on payment of a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem and travelling charges for his journey from Madras and back. He may require a small staff to start with. No details of the staff can be given now. Hence a lump sum of Rs. 2,000 is asked for, for meeting the cost of the staff and the contingent charges.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether Government have tried to send over anybody to study the system obtaining outside the Madras Presidency?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, Government have not.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I also know whether the system that has been sought to be introduced is the best that we can possibly get at present?

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Of course, literature regarding the system obtaining elsewhere is available for perusal.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Have the Government gone into the literature and found the system to be the best?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have had no opportunity of going into all the literature on the subject.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it the same system as that obtaining in Simla now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I oppose the demand. I think that some officers from the Secretariat may be sent to Madras, Bombay or Calcutta to study the systems obtaining there and then to overhaul the Secretariat. If this question is very urgent, I think it would have been brought up when the budget was discussed; and if the Secretariat is to be overhauled there is ample time for some of the officers to go to Madras or Bombay and to study the system and this sum can be granted at the next budget. So I oppose the demand.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I too oppose the demand. I said, when opposing the previous demand, that such supplementary demands are not in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the rules regulating supplementary grants. There is no special urgency in the matter. This is not a new thing that has come upon the Secretariat all at once. These are two conditions which are more or less necessary when introducing supplementary demands.

I listened to the story of the Government member. Though I have the highest regard and respect for him, I fear he has given away the whole show. It is certainly not creditable to the Secretariat. Things have been allowed to drift. Some attempts have been made to rectify matters, but they have again drifted on, and now everything is, more or less, in a squash. We want an outsider to come in and put matters aright. This, I think, is an insult to our Secretariat. We have some of the best officers Travancore has produced in our Secretaries. There are brilliant graduates as Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, head clerks, and clerks, and the Chief Secretary has admitted that the system is not a complicated one.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Has Mr. Hoogewerf any idea of the cost if one officer is to be sent to Madras and back?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Before I answer that question, I must know what sort of officer he refers to.

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MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not know what officer he wants to send to Madras (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The selection of the officer is not in my hands (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is suggested that some officer should be sent from here. Will that not cost more?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not know what the cost will be unless I know who the officer to be sent is.

PRESIDENT: You may decline to answer his question if you so choose.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir.

As I said, it is not at all complimentary to the Huzur Secretariat. The system of record-keeping is not a complicated one, and the Government member has admitted that in reply to a question asked by Mr. Krishna Aiyar. He asked whether Government could not send a Travancorean who would be able to acquire a thorough knowledge of what should be preserved as records and what should not be. That is a very pertinent question and I think the Chief Secretary answered it. The outsider will not know the conditions of Travancore. We can get all the information by writing to Madras as to what the system obtaining there is. As the Government member said, it is not a complicated one; there are no difficult mathematical problems to be solved, and there is no difficulty to study it. The fashion seems to be to allow things to drift, and then appoint a committee or somebody from Madras to set matters right. This, Sir, I say, is a very unhealthy way of doing things. The people in Madras will have a very poor opinion of Travancore if we are to import an officer from Madras even for a small thing of this kind. Our Secretariat is very efficient and the officers there are competent to put their house in order. I therefore oppose this demand very strongly as I did the previous demand.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I have also very great pleasure in opposing this demand. First of all, Sir, the grant was expressed to cover the system of record-keeping and introducing other reforms in the General and Revenue Secretariat. But on listening to the member in charge, I find that ultimately the matter dwindled down to the system of keeping records. If, for this purpose, a special officer is to be appointed, and if this opportunity is to be taken for introducing a supplementary grant as the thin end of the wedge, I fear, this House is liable to be troubled with similar requests in various directions. For example, those in authority in the Secretariat may think that, for the mending of quill pens in the Secretariat, a special officer has to be appointed. If the officers in the Secretariat want to have a quillpen mended in a particular fashion, they will come with a demand for appointing a special officer. If in similar instances special officers have to be imported from abroad, that will be setting up a very bad precedent in the Secretariat.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Then with respect to the particular officer the Government have in their view, it was said that he set the house in order so far as the Madras Secretariat was concerned. I raised the question to be answered by the member in charge whether any outside officer had been brought down to the Madras Secretariat, to set the example in the matter of record-keeping.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you put that question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am raising that question now. During the time of his reply, he is at liberty to answer it.

One of the officers of the Secretariat in Madras was asked to look into the question and remedy the evil there. Why, I ask, cannot a similar step be taken in Travancore? In Madras they did not think it worthwhile to get an officer from outside. They thought it was their own business. They could discover what exactly was getting out of order and out of condition there. They could put their house in order themselves. Why a similar attempt could not be made here was not explained by the member in charge. Before making out a real case, this House cannot be called upon to vote upon this particular point. That is the main reason I am urging in opposing this motion. The member in charge has been pointing out that, ever since 1904, new systems have been introduced in the Huzur Secretariat with the object of cleaning the Augean stables. Those, according to the member in charge, have not been successful. First of all, it remains to be looked into whether the agency that is now in charge of the Huzur records is an efficient agency at all. Suppose we get a man from Madras and he restores order. Where is the guarantee that the whole thing may not revert to the old bad condition? And if after an interval, outside assistance has again to be sought to restore order in the maintenance of records, that, as my friend Mr. Hoogewerf put it, would reflect but little credit on the sense of orderliness prevailing in the Records Section of the Secretariat. Therefore I do not find any possibility to see eye to eye with the learned member in charge of this motion. I am therefore opposing it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I too beg to oppose the motion. The motion consists of two parts. One is for an officer for the revision of the system of the records, and the other for the introduction of other reforms in the General and Revenue Secretariat. The latter has not been discussed at any length by the member in charge.

PRESIDENT: I do not think he said "revision of the General Secretariat."

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I used the word 'introduction."

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is how it is printed in the notice.

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MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikavalli*): I do not say that our record system does not need revision. That may be absolutely necessary. Therefore certainly I should be the first person to support the motion. After all it is only a matter of Rs. 2,000. It is not, on that account, that I am opposing the motion. We must introduce the best available system. The member in charge has not been able to assure us what all systems have been studied and whether the proposed system is likely to be the best. When we go in for a new system, it would be better for us to study all the systems obtaining in up-to-date places, for example, the system obtaining in Switzerland or for that matter in Delhi or in some of the business concerns such as the P. and O. and other big concerns. On the ground that we must get the best possible system, I oppose the motion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraviel* cum *Vilavankod*): റിക്കാർഡുകൾ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള നടപ്പിനെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും, ജനറൽ അൻഡ് റവന്യൂ സിക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിൽ പലേ പരിഷ്ക്കാരങ്ങളും വരുത്തുന്നതിനും ഒരു സ്പെഷ്യൽ ആഫീസറെ വരുത്തുന്നതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചിലവിലേക്കായി കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള തുക അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി വാദിക്കുന്നു.

ഇവിടെ റിക്കാർഡുകൾ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്ന രീതി ശരിയല്ലെന്നും, അത് അസാമാന്യമായ വിധം വഷളായിട്ടുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും, അതിനാൽ അവയെ തരംതിരിച്ചു സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടവയെ സൂക്ഷിക്കയും, നശിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടവയെ നശിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഹജൂർ സിക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിലെ ആളുകൾക്കും ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായ ഭേദഗതികളും പരിഷ്ക്കാരങ്ങളും വരുത്തേണ്ടതായുള്ള സംഗതിയും ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലേക്കു പുറമേനിന്നും ഒരു സ്പെഷ്യൽ ആഫീസരെ വരുത്തി സാധിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നും, ആയത് ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്കു വേണ്ടതായുണ്ടോ എന്നുമാണ് നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. ഈ കാര്യത്തിനായി ഒരു സ്പെഷ്യൽ ആഫീസറെ വരുത്തി ദുർവ്യയം ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്ക് അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്.

അതിലേക്കുള്ള ഒന്നാമത്തെ കാരണം ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലുള്ള ഉൽകൃഷ്ടവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ നിലയ്ക്ക് അതൊരിക്കലും ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണെന്നാകുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിലോ, ഒരു ആഫീസിലെ ഭരണരീതികളിലോ, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ നടപടികളെ ഇവിടെ പകർത്തണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ അതിലേക്കു യോഗ്യതയുള്ള ഒരാളെ ഇവിടെനിന്ന് അയച്ചു പഠിപ്പിച്ചുവരുത്തുകയാണ് വേണ്ടതു്. അങ്ങനെ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

അല്ലാതെ എല്ലാകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കും പുറമെ നിന്ന് ഒരു സ്പെഷ്യൽ ആഫീസരെ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കാലത്തേക്കായി ഇവിടെ വരുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നയം ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്സർവീസിലുള്ളവർക്ക് ഒരിക്കലും അഭിമാനകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കുപോലും പുറമേനിന്നും ആളുകളെ വരുത്തിത്തുടങ്ങുന്നതായാൽ, ഇവ സാധിക്കുന്നതിനു ഇവിടെ യോഗ്യന്മാർ ഇല്ലെന്നോ, ഉള്ളവരെക്കൊണ്ടു പ്രാപ്തിയില്ലെന്നോ, പുറമെ ഉള്ളവർ അത്ഥമാക്കുന്നതിൽ ആശ്ചര്യപ്പെടുവാനില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇത്തരം ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങൾ സാധിക്കുന്നതിനു പുറമെയുള്ളവർ തന്നെ വേണമെന്നും അതിലേക്കു പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ വകയായ ഒട്ടവളരെ പണം ചിലവാക്കണമെന്നും വരുന്നതായാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലേക്കായി നാം ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപ ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നതിനു അർത്ഥമില്ലെന്നു വരുന്നതാണ്. അതുമാത്രമല്ല വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ രാജ്യം പ്രഥമസ്ഥാനത്തെ അലംകരിച്ചു വരുന്നതായ അഭിമാനത്തിനു ഒരിക്കലും അവകാശമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഏതുതരം സംഗതികളിലും പുറമേപോയി പഠിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനു ഇവിടത്തെ സിക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിലുള്ള ചെറുപ്പക്കാരായ സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരിൽ പൂർണ്ണയോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ഇപ്പോഴും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവർൺമെൻറ് മുമ്പാകെ സമ്മതിക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാകുകയില്ലായിരിക്കാമെങ്കിലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അതിൽ പൂർണ്ണവിശ്വാസം ഉള്ളതാണ്.

ദിവാൻ വി. പി. മാധവരായർ അവർകളുടെ കാലത്തു ഫയിൽ സിസ്റ്റം ഇവിടെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി മിസ്റ്റർ മഹാദേവയ്യരെ പുറമേ അയച്ചു പരിശീലിപ്പിച്ചു വരുത്തീട്ടാണ് ഇവിടെ അതു ഏർപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതു യുക്തികരമായി നടന്നുവരുമ്പോൾ ഒരു ലഹളയായകാലത്തെ ആലോചനയുടെ ഫലമായി അതിനെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ആഫീസുകളിൽനിന്നും നിഷ്ക്കാസനം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ട R. O. C. സിസ്റ്റം ഇവിടെ നടപ്പാക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. ഇപ്പോൾ അതിലേയ്ക്കും ഭേദഗതി വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യം വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതായിതോന്നുന്നു. അതിലേയ്ക്കോ, സിക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിലെ പരിഷ്ക്കാരത്തിനോ, പുതുതായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടിക്കോ, ഏതിനുതന്നെയായിരുന്നാലും അതിലേക്കു പുറമേനിന്നും ഒരാളെ വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ സിക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിലുള്ള യോഗ്യന്മാരിൽ ഒരാളെ അതിലേക്ക് അയച്ചുപഠിപ്പിച്ചു വരുത്തുകയാണ് എല്ലാംകൊണ്ടും ഗുണകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

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മുമ്പുവല്ല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഇത്തരം കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ആളുകളെ പുറമെ അയച്ചു പരിശീലിപ്പിച്ചു വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ആരേക്കൊണ്ടെങ്കിലും വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടാതെ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനുള്ള കാരണം ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള അധികൃതന്മാരുടെ മനോഗ്രഹണത്തിന്റെ ന്യൂനതയായിരിക്കാമെന്നല്ലാതെ ഇവിടെ അതിലേക്കു പ്രാപ്തന്മാർ ഇല്ലെന്ന് ഒരിക്കലും അഭിപ്രായമാക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

റിക്കാഡുകളും സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനേയും നശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനേയും പറ്റി നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതിനു പുറമെ നിന്ന് ഒരാളെ വരുത്തുന്നത് അപകടമായി വരുമെന്നാണ് അതിനെ വിരോധിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഏന്റെ രണ്ടാമത്തെ കാരണം. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലേയും ഇവിടത്തെയും Land Tenures വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുള്ളതാണ്. അനേകം Land Tenures ഉള്ളതായ ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് അവയെ പറ്റി മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിനു പലെ വിഷമങ്ങളും കാലതാമസവും വേണ്ടി വരുന്നതാണ്. പുറമെ നിന്നും വരുന്ന ഒരാളിന് അതിലേക്കുള്ള കഴിവും സമയവും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നതോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ Land Tenures നെസംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പല റിക്കാഡുകളും അടുത്തകണ്ടെഴുത്തു കഴിയാതെ നശിപ്പിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. അവയെ തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു റിക്കാഡുകളെ നശിപ്പിക്കാൻ പുറമെനിന്നും വരുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു ഒരിക്കലും സധിക്കുന്നതല്ല ഈ ന്യൂനതയെ പരിഹരിക്കാനായി അവിടെ നിന്നും വരുത്തുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനായി ഇവിടെ നിന്നും തക്കതായ ആളുകളെക്കൂടി ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്താമെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു സമാധാനം പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. ആ സമാധാനം പറയുന്ന പക്ഷം അങ്ങനെ സഹായിക്കാനായി ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന യോഗ്യന്മാരിൽ ഒരാളെ പുറമെ അയച്ചു ഈ കാര്യത്തിനു വേണ്ട പരിശീലനം കൊടുത്തു വരുത്തുകയാണ് വേണ്ടതു്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ പരിചയമോ, അതിനാലുള്ള സാമർത്ഥ്യമോ കൊണ്ട് ഇവിടത്തെ ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ സംബന്ധമായ റിക്കാഡുകളെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തികളയാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം അതു ശരിയായ ഒരഭിപ്രായമായി ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിനെപ്പറ്റി എഴുതീട്ടുള്ള മെമ്മൊറാണ്ടം വായിക്കുന്നവക്ക് ഈ സംഗതി വ്യക്തമായി ബോധപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

ഇതിലേക്കായി പുറമെ നിന്നും ഒരാളെ വരുത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നതിനു മറെറാരു കാരണമുള്ളതു് ഇവിടെ എത്രയോ കേമന്മാരായ വിദേശീയ ദിവാൻജിമാരും, ഇവിടെയുള്ള മറു പലേ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ഭരിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്നതായ സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള റിക്കാഡുകളും ഇതു വളരെ കുഴപ്പമായി കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിയെ പുറമെ നിന്നും ഒരാളെ വരുത്തി കാണിക്കുന്നത് ഇവി

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

ടെയുള്ളവക്കോ ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണത്തിനോ ഒരിക്കലും അഭിമാനകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതി ഏതുപോലെയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നാൽ ഒരു തറവാട്ടിലെ ഭരണം കുഴപ്പത്തിലാക്കിയിട്ടിട്ട് അടുത്ത വീട്ടുകാരനെ ശരിയാക്കിത്തരാൻ ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നതു പോലെയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഇതിലേക്കുള്ള ചിലവ് അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ വാദിക്കുന്നു.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): After listening carefully to the speeches made by the learned Chief Secretary—

PRESIDENT: Please speak louder.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I am also of opinion that it is not advisable to import a foreigner to make the necessary reforms in the Secretariat. I think that it would be more advisable to send an intelligent and responsible member of the Secretariat to study the system that is obtaining in Madras, or, if necessary, in Simla and other places. Of course I appreciate very much the difficulty referred to by the learned Chief Secretary that the present system is not working well and it causes delay in the disposal of files and communications, and I would be the last person to oppose any grant which would facilitate the disposal of papers in the Secretariat. Further there is a general complaint throughout the State that in every department—in the Judicial and in all other departments—delay is the order of the day. So any system which would be of any use for disposing of appeals, applications and communications at the very earliest possible opportunity should be encouraged, and I, for one, would not grudge spending some reasonable sum if that object could be realised. But I am not satisfied with the observations made by the learned Chief Secretary that the importation of an outsider would bring about that desirable object. As observed by some of my friends, I am also not in favour of importing a stranger for that purpose.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, in order that the officer entrusted with the task of filing the records right and the—

PRESIDENT: Louder please.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I am suffering from a slight cold. I have temporarily lost my voice. In order that the officer entrusted with the task of introducing an up-to-date system of filing, etc., in the Huzur Secretariat might be able to discharge satisfactorily the duties that are entrusted to him, he must be thoroughly conversant with the details of a satisfactory system, and also he must know the system he is to overhaul. These two parts must be combined in the officer selected for the purpose. Now the question is which is easier for an officer of the Travancore Secretariat who knows the history of the problems and the

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records of the country to pick up the working of a system that is considered to be the best prevailing in any part of British India, or for an officer of the British service who knows something about a good system to study the conditions here and then to apply that system to local conditions? In the process of overhauling our existing system, such records as are worthy of being preserved should be preserved and such as are not worthy of being preserved may be destroyed. If an officer from outside, without understanding the local conditions properly, causes the destruction of records that may be absolutely necessary under certain conditions, he might be doing irreparable mischief to the country. Therefore, I feel absolutely convinced that it would be by far the better course to get hold of a young, energetic and intelligent officer from the Travancore Government service and depute him to British India in order that he may familiarise himself with some up-to-date system of record-keeping and preserving of files, etc., and to use him to reorganise all our offices. I should like also to say a word in this connection that this reform should be made applicable not only to the Huzur Cutcherry but to the offices of the Dewan Peishkars, the Magistrates, the Munsiffs and, in fact, all Government offices. Lower down in the various Government departments, we know the records are being kept sometimes very scandalously. Instances have very often come to notice in which low-paid subordinates have been able to tamper with valuable records, and I know that people are very reluctant to entrust such records to Munsiffs' courts and Magistrates' courts for fear that something might be done to them. There is a great deal of confusion everywhere. In fact the officers in charge of some of these offices have themselves admitted to me that their records are kept in a bewildering condition. I am sure the records in the Huzur Secretariat are very much more satisfactory since the introduction of the file system during the time of Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao. It is much more important that some system should be introduced into every office of the Government. As it stands now, I strongly oppose the motion. I am also strongly of opinion that any amount of money spent in this direction will not be a waste if it is spent in the proper manner. I should think that the idea of getting down a foreigner and asking him to apply his experience gained elsewhere to local conditions, after he has lost his youthfulness and his capacity to assimilate new conditions, is not a good one. I am afraid he may not understand our conditions properly, and he may apply his principles in the wrong way which might do more harm than good.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, it appears to me that the decision of this question presents some difficulties because we know that, for the last several years, Travancore has had the advantage of being administered by some of the best men in the Madras Presidency. There is no State which has been so fortunate as to secure the services of such eminent Dewans from outside as Travancore has had, and I take it, Sir, that all these great and good men have been straining every nerve to make the administration of Travancore as good as it

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

ought to be. It is impossible for me to understand how, in the light of these facts, the arrangement for keeping the records and for the expedition of work in the highest office in the State should fall into such bewildering condition as has been depicted by the Chief Secretary. If that be so, no time should be lost in setting matters right. The confusion cannot be of the working of the Dewans or of the Chief Secretaries or of the lesser officers, because we have been getting the tribute of various people to the effect that the average Travancorean is very much more competent a person than the inhabitant of many other States, and Dewan after Dewan has come forward with generous incense at the altar of Travancore efficiency. Now, Sir, if the confusion is to be removed, if the records are to be put in order, or if the issue of stationery is to be properly controlled and regulated, we want a very efficient and energetic officer. I am out and out in favour of the principle that, when there are suitable persons in Travancore service for putting our records in order, whether they be in service or out of service, their services ought to be at once requisitioned. If, on the other hand, there is no such person, if the experience picked up by these officers has been in vain or, at any rate, insufficient or unsatisfactory, I shall be the first person to welcome an outsider rather than keep the records in a kind of confusion. Rather than doing so we must get the confusion at once removed. I was made to believe that putting the records in order or improving the system of keeping files was a technical business and a person who has experience in such matters will be in a better position to do it than others. But when I listened to the speech of the Chief Secretary I heard him say that the matter was not so very difficult and was apparently a simple affair. If that be so, those intelligent officers of various grades now in service, and those intelligent and efficient men who may be outside the service should certainly be able to come to the rescue of the Travancore Government at this time of crisis. But I do not arrogate myself the function of deciding that question. It is for the Government to make a pronouncement. I am not going to distrust an officer simply because he is an officer. There are important officers sitting on the other side. There is the Dewan, who knows the details of the administration, presiding over this Council. There are the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, and a number of other important officers. If they are prepared to lay their hands on their bosom and say that there is no proper and competent officer in the Travancore service, I shall at once advocate the importation of an outsider because we want our house to be put in order. But it must be unambiguous; it must be unconditional. There must be an unconditional pronouncement made on behalf of the Travancore Government that the work now sought to be done cannot be executed by any body in Travancore. If they are prepared to give that assurance, I shall be the very first to welcome this motion. If not, I must oppose it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, ever since this question of the appointment of a special officer to overhaul

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the office system and records of the Huzur Secretariat was brought to my notice, I have been of the opinion that this is not a very urgent matter and could well afford to wait till the next budget session, when the bearing of the proposal and the financial commitments involved in the entire Secretariat budget could be more correctly gauged than when the matter is dealt with in this piecemeal manner.

I would also deprecate the manner in which the supplementary demand is placed before this Council. The Council has been asked to vote merely on the expenditure required for the staff and is at liberty to discuss only indirectly the appointment of the Special Officer. I do not deny that strictly the Government are in the right in narrowing down the province of discussion, but I would only point out that there is nothing to prevent the supplementary demand indicating the total expenditure involved in the proposal; for, the mere fact that the entire State Budget, which includes so many non-votable items, is placed before the Council, does not certainly confer a right on the Council to disallow a non-votable item. Again the indirect control exercised by this council on non-votable items has not been found to be very effective. For, although this Council passed a motion during the last Budget Session involving the reduction of a Division Assistant's place in the Devicolam Division, the Council has no information as to what action has been taken by the Government in that direction. It is, therefore, all the more important that fresh schemes involving large expenditure should not be brought in the middle of the year, but should form part of the annual State budget.

The Chief Secretary complains that the system that was obtaining from 1904 has been found to be unsatisfactory, and that in 1921 the system was sought to be revised. But for some reason or other it was found that the revised scheme did not fit in with the old file system and therefore a lot of confusion has arisen resulting in the delay of despatch of business. Now that is a question which has to be considered in more aspects than one. What are the causes that have given room for this confusion? It may not be possible for us now to take a broad view of the question. The internal efficiency of the Secretariat itself will be one of the main considerations that will have to be drawn pointed attention to by this Council, and that question has to be examined. It cannot certainly be that this confusion and delay in the despatch of business was noticed all on a sudden. This might have been noticed long before this and the remedy could have been suggested very much earlier. There was recently a revision of the salaries with a view to enhance efficiency. There was an Efficiency Audit Officer for the purpose of revising office systems. We do not know what exactly are the proposals of the Efficiency Audit Officer in regard to this matter. The expansion of the Council has necessarily thrown a fresh volume of additional work on the Secretariat and the delay in the despatch of business appears to me to be due to the centralisation of powers and duties in the Dewan and the Chief Secretary. The solution lies, I would submit, in the creation of an Executive Council to share the work of responsibility now devolving on them.

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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

The Secretariat to be efficient should be manned by efficient hands. Among the Secretaries, Superintendents and clerks we find quite a large proportion who have been doing the same work for years together. It is not therefore a surprise to me when the Chief Secretary complains that there is no one fit for the work for at least keeping the records in the proper manner.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I did not say that there was nobody in the Secretariat competent to keep the records in proper order.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I mean, to revise the existing system and to remove all the chaos and confusion that is now said to be rampant in the Secretariat. It is impossible to expect imagination or initiative from men who have been doing the same work for years together. There should be a free flow of promotions from the Secretariat into the executive ranks. It is also a matter for consideration, as suggested by Mr. Madhava Variar, whether it would not be cheaper and more advantageous in the long run, to depute, if need be, one of our own younger officers to study the system obtaining in the Imperial or Provincial Secretariats. I would again urge that the whole question be fully examined along with the budget next year.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I also oppose the demand for the supplementary grant. It is unnecessary for me to repeat the reasons which have already been given by the other members of the Council for opposing the grant. It is enough to say that the reasons adduced by the Government member for making this demand for supplementary grant are not convincing. The chief reason alleged for making this demand for grant is that it has become absolutely necessary and urgent to devise means for disposing of the vastly accumulated mass of records already in the Government offices. We may accept the statement of the Chief Secretary that the volume of records to be dealt with is very great. But we cannot accept the statement that an officer imported from outside would be more competent to deal with these records, to sort them, to find out what records should be destroyed, what should be preserved, what should be printed and so forth. As has already been pointed out, a man who is an intelligent officer, who is acquainted with local conditions and local affairs, will be more competent to determine those matters than a raw outsider who comes without any such knowledge of local conditions and affairs. Of course, he may be well acquainted with a particular system for disposing of these records; that is one thing. But to actually carry out that system in regard to our records is quite a different thing altogether. So that what we want is a man who is acquainted with local customs and conditions and other things as well as a man who is acquainted with the new system which has been introduced into the Madras Secretariat. The

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system can be studied more easily. The Chief Secretary himself has said that it is not a complicated system and therefore the knowledge could be acquired very easily.

In this connection, a suggestion has been made by some of the members that, if necessary, an intelligent officer from the Secretariat can be deputed to Madras for studying the system. Mr. Robinson very pertinently asked whether the members who made the suggestion considered the comparative cost of the two proposals. To my mind, the deputation of an officer to Madras for the purpose of studying the system will be much cheaper than the importation of an outsider under the circumstances mentioned by the Government member, because the man to be imported is not only for the purpose of introducing a new system of dealing with the records but also to carry out the system into actual practice, and as such his service will have to be retained for a much longer time than the deputation of an officer to Madras for the purpose of studyidg the system alone would require. Probably the officer may be able to get acquainted with the system within a fortnight or a month or even two months, whereas an officer on a salary of Rs. 500 is sought to be imported for six months at the outset; but according to my idea I think the time will have to be extended because the amount of work he has to turn out is enormous. So that, in my opinion, the deputation of an officer to Madras or other places for the purpose of studying the system would be much cheaper, more effective and more useful than the importation of a new officer from outside, who is only acquainted with the system of dealing with the records and not with the actual conditions in Travancore. For these reasons I also strongly oppose the demand for this grant.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I think that both sides of the House are agreed on one point, namely, that the Secretariat records need looking into for being arranged and systematised. The only question at issue is which is the better way to secure this object—whether it is better to send a capable officer to Madras and other places to find out the system there, or to get down an officer of experience from British India who has been trained in the British system and introduce this system into our Secretariat.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether it is not the presumption that an officer who is pensioned is not in a position to do efficient service?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think that because the officer has been pensioned he has lost all the efficiency.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am asking whether that is not the presumption.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): He has at his back several years of experience and that will be available to this State even if he has retired.

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[Mr. K. George.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether a superannuated officer is not more inefficient physically than an active officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We recently got down another officer who had retired from service for the Press Committee's work, and my impression is that the Press Committee members have been satisfied with the part he took in the committees deliberations.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. George whether he is aware that a pensioned officer is one of the ministers of the Madras Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am perfectly aware of that; and that, I should say, does support the argument that an officer though pensioned may be capable of useful service.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is there a chance, in view of the valuable services that may be rendered by pensioned officers, that they may be encouraged to come in more and more into service? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Now that we are agreed on this point that the records require looking into, the question is, which is the better method. Now, examining from the standpoint of cheapness, it was said, I believe, by Mr. Changanachery Parameswaran Pillai, that the deputation would be cheaper. But we must regard the cheapness not merely in the light of the immediate cost. If we bring down an officer from British India to arrange and systematise our records here, we get the advantage of his past experience and can train a large number of capable men in the Secretariat itself who could later on, be expected to carry on what he has introduced. That certainly is cheapness. We could not afford—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Would it not be the same thing with regard to the man sent from here?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I will refer to that later on. We cannot afford, on the other hand, to send a large number of men, time and again, to study the systems obtaining in British India. Therefore, from the point of view of cheapness, we get the advantage of having education given to our men here at a small cost.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether our officer who returns cannot do the same thing at a small cost.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): First of all, by the time our officer goes and learns, the officer that is imported would have finished his work.

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MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what time it will take for the sorting of records by the special officer?

PRESIDENT: It is estimated at six months.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It may take a longer time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know whether any officer, if appointed from outside, will have access to the confidential records in the Huzur Cutcherry?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I believe no. Not even an officer who is appointed locally will have access to them.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Who is to determine whether they are confidential or not?

PRESIDENT: All confidential records are kept separately.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): There may be very confidential records in the Secretariat itself.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Nobody will have any access to that.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Are the confidential records kept in order?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I believe they are in order.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): After setting the Secretariat House in order, will the officer go from department to department putting them in order?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is not expected that he would do that. On the other hand, it is expected that he might train some men and Government may be in a position to issue instructions to the subordinate departments.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is any particular method adopted for putting confidential records in order?

PRESIDENT: I do not think that question arises here now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there any instance of men being brought from other places for the Account Office?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes. We got down first of all Mr. Subbaroyer from Mysore for organising the Account Department. Later on we had the deputation of Mr. Dukoff Gordon, on two occasions, one about 1087 and again about 1093 or 1094, for examining our Account system and suggesting improvements, and that is an instance in point. He came here and

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[Mr. K. George.]

advised the Government as to the changes to be made in our system of accounts. His proposals were carried out and we had a number of men trained, some in British India and some locally, and all have been employed in working that system. That is what I am urging. If a man of experience is got from British India, it will be useful for our State and then we can improve our system much better than with the help of a man who, sent from here, picks up a smattering of knowledge in British India.

Mr. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Will not history repeat itself?

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): History sometimes has a tendency to repeat itself, but not necessarily always.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether file-keeping and account-keeping form subjects of courses in the Commercial School?

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not quite sure. Account-keeping is; but as regards file-keeping I am not sure.

Another point I have to say is this. If we are to get down an officer with several years of experience we have a very great advantage, namely the weight of his opinion.

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Suppose he does not train the officers properly. His presence will then have to be prolonged.

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We expect that he will be an honourable officer who will do his work. In the case of a local officer deputed to British India, Government, in matters of doubt, will have to refer to British India again. He is not expected to get an all-round and thorough knowledge of the system. That is from the nature of things impracticable.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Supposing he revises the system and he goes and suppose that does not again fit in with the scheme and some difficulties crop up in the way.

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That is just what I say. During the time he is here Government will have the advantage of consulting him. Government and the responsible officers of the Secretariat will be in a position to take advantage of his experience and his advice. On the other hand, if we send a man from here to British India, we do not get that advantage.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know where this officer who is to be imported, learnt the system.

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In the Madras Secretariat itself.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Before he was appointed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): He was in Madras for years and he was trained in the system; and I believe when the Tottenham system was introduced he was there and studied it. I believe he was one of the officers in the Madras Secretariat who took part in the change of the system and made himself up-to-date in it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was the period of six months arrived at in consultation with the officer in contemplation by Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No; that is only fixed provisionally.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know when the Tottenham system was introduced in Madras? Is it not a very recent system?

PRESIDENT: If you do not object to my giving the information, it was about 1920.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): So it is only a new system.

PRESIDENT: It is not entirely new. It is only a development of the old system.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): One point was raised—whether Madras brought down any man to improve the system there. If I remember right, some years ago an officer from the Imperial Secretariat was deputed to Madras to study the system there. So Madras apparently has the best system available and we would not be in bad company if we got down a man from Madras.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): That is an argument in favour of deputation.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The main point for consideration is which is the better method of achieving our object. There is no objection to a Travancore officer being sent; but whether it is cheaper than getting an officer from British India is a matter for consideration. If a Travancore officer has to be sent at all, it must be a superior officer, say of the grade of a Dewan Peishkar, an officer drawing Rs. 500-700.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Why should it be a Dewan Peishkar?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because his opinion would carry weight when he returns.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Have the Peishkars experience in filing, etc.?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the position of the officer in the Secretariat when he learnt the system under Mr. Tottenham in Madras?

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Nobody said he learnt it under Mr. Tottenham. That is not what Mr. George said.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What is the status of the Special Officer proposed?

PRESIDENT: Retired Assistant Secretary to the Madras Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to say from his experience as clerk, Head clerk, Assistant Secretary, Under Secretary, Peishkar and Chief Secretary how there has been this confusion made in the Huzur Office?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There has been confusion for a very long time, as I mentioned in my first speech. Repeated attempts were made to remove this confusion. A special staff was appointed from time to time, but they were not able to make any headway. That is why I say that an officer possessing expert knowledge is necessary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it highly necessary? Would not a Superintendent do?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no use in sending a Superintendent or even an Assistant Secretary. If an officer is sent at all, he should be of the status of a Dewan Peishkar.

PRESIDENT: It was already stated that his opinion must carry weight.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Moreover, the advantage of having an expert officer here is that he can train a number of officers here. An officer who is deputed may take a long time to study the system. In the meantime work in the different sections would be accumulating, and in order that current work may be got through efficiently, the system should be improved, and we cannot delay till the officer returns.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to say whether there is no one in the Huzur Office, Secretary, Under Secretary or such other officer who will be able to revise this system and put it in perfect order?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I must say that there are very competent officers, but they do not possess that technical knowledge to enable them to put the records in proper order.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): All the experience they have might be—

PRESIDENT: All that has been repeatedly answered.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is cheaper in the long run to obtain the services of an experienced officer from outside for a temporary period and let him train men in Travancore so that they may continue the work when he leaves Travancore

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether, without the special appointment of an outsider, Government will not be able to place these records in order.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think that the Government will be able to do so.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is indexing, selecting, and printing the chief work of the special officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. Some of the records have to be destroyed. Important papers should be selected and printed. I mean all these items of work should be done on up-to-date lines. We want a man who has an up-to-date knowledge in handling old records.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does it require expert knowledge?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Expert knowledge would be useful. There is a difference between a lay man doing it and a man who is well-versed in the system of record keeping doing it. Mr. Kumara Pillai seems to have said that it is discreditable to the Travancore Government to go in for an outsider.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതങ്ങനെയല്ല. ദിവാൻജിയും, ചീഫ്സിക്രട്ടറിയും, സിക്രട്ടറിമാരും മറ്റു യോഗ്യന്മാരുള്ള ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽ അവിടത്തെ റിക്കാഡുകൾ ശരിയായി സൂക്ഷിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരാളിനെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നതു് അപമാനകരം എന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know what is the status of the officer who may be deputed to help the new man, if one is going to be appointed?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He must come and be consulted before anyone is appointed.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is not the knowledge of the vernaculars of the country necessary?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. We are not dealing with the vernacular records at all. The records relating to land revenue are all in the central vernacular records. The special officer is not to be asked to deal with the vernacular records.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are not vernacular records very important?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Those may be important records, but they are not to be taken up now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will it be possible to appoint a man from outside who knows English, Malayalam and Tamil?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In regard to the officer whom it is proposed to get down, he knows Malayalam as well. We have been getting down experts from outside as

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

pointed out by Mr. George, like Mr. Narayana Aiyangar who was doing useful work. Though a retired officer, he was able to offer very valuable help to the committee appointed for looking into the working of the Government Press. So there is no discredit in indenting on the services of an officer from outside.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the system introduced in 1921 covers Malayalam records also?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Of course, Malayalam records may also be brought under the system.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has any attempt been made to bring it under that system?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Subsequent to 1921 we have very little Malayalam correspondence.

PRESIDENT: I shall now put this motion to the vote of the House.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 27 voting *for* and 15 *against*.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following results:—

AYES—27.

1. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.
2. ,, S. Parameswara Aiyar.
3. ,, K. George.
4. ,, V. Subba Aiyar.
5. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
6. Dewan Bhadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
7. Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
8. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
9. ,, I. C. Chacko.
10. ,, W. H. Pitt.
11. ,, A. J. Van Ross.
12. ,, K. Parameswaran Pillai (*Ag. Director of Agriculture.*)
13. ,, L. C. Hodgson.
14. ,, M. Raja Raja Varma.
15. ,, S. C. H. Robinson.
16. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
17. ,, C. J. Curien.
18. ,, Paul V. Daniel.
19. ,, A. Govinda Menon.
20. ,, M. K. Khadir Pillai.
21. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.
22. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.
23. ,, P. Parameswaran.
24. ,, L. R. Raja Raja Varma.
25. ,, C. Ramankunju.
26. ,, Trivikramar Vasudevar.
27. ,, T. K. Velu Pillai.

NOES—15.

1. Mr. A. Hoogewerf.
2. ,, S. Krishna Aiyar.
3. ,, N. Kumaran.
4. ,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
5. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
6. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
7. ,, K. C. Mammen Mapillai.
8. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
9. ,, J. John Nidiry
10. ,, M. N. Pillai.
11. ,, Joseph Panjikaran.
12. ,, G. Parameswaran Pillai.
13. ,, K. Parameswaran Pillai. (*Tiruvalla*)
14. ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
15. ,, K. Dominic Tomman.

The motion was declared carried.

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